

WASHINGTON POST

10 OCT 1973

Institute Says FBI Spied on It

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An attorney for the Institute for Policy Studies has informed the Senate select Watergate committee that the institute has evidence that federal and local agents illegally infiltrated, wiretapped and burglarized the organization's Washington offices at 1520 New Hampshire Ave NW.

Attorney Mitchell Rogovin, in an affidavit sworn to on Oct. 3 and made public by the committee yesterday, said the institute had been given the information by a former FBI police informer and by a former special agent of the FBI.

Rogovin did not name the sources of his information. In the affidavit, but Richard Barnett, codirector of IPS, identified them as former FBI agent Robert N. Wall, and Robert Merritt, who says he was an informer for the FBI, the Treasury Department and the D.C. metropolitan police.

Rogovin's affidavit was in response to testimony given Sept. 26 by White House aide Patrick Buchanan. He alleged Buchanan made "several false allegations" against IPS.

Rogovin, himself a former chief counsel for the Internal Revenue Service, said that in addition to government spying the institute also is currently in danger of losing its tax-exempt status from IRS because its views "differ sharply from those of the (Nixon) administration."

IPS is a left-leaning public affairs "think tank" noted for its scholarly attacks—chiefly by Barnett and the institute's codirector, Marcus Raskin—on the Vietnam war and U.S. foreign policy.

Rogovin, in his affidavit, stated that IPS learned from a former FBI informant, identified by Barnett as Merritt, that "the FBI on several occasions has infiltrated (IPS) with agents and informants and on at least one occasion joined with a member of the metropolitan police department in the theft of documents from the institute."

Barnett yesterday told The Washington Post that Merritt, then using an alias of "Chandler," told IPS about a year ago of FBI-D.C. police surveillance of the institute. He said Merritt, at that time, did not want to make his disclosures public.

FBI and D.C. police have refused to comment on Merritt's allegations.

Merritt, Barnett said, told of removing internal memos and other documents from an IPS mailbox for the FBI and D.C. police.

Rogovin, in his affidavit, said IPS has "also been advised by a former special agent of the FBI that the FBI has improperly secured the bank records of the institute without the use of legal process."

Former agent Wall, in an article in The New York Review of Books in January, 1971, told how he himself had initiated an investigation of IPS for the FBI and had concluded there was nothing to investigate.

Another FBI agent, later reopened the IPS file, Wall said, and "began monitoring the checking account of the institute to determine where its money was going." Wall added that the agent also obtained telephone records on IPS and attempted to place informants as student interns in the institute. He said the FBI also investigated people who worked for or received money from IPS.

Barnett said that Wall has given IPS a sworn affidavit describing these FBI actions against IPS.

In his affidavit, Rogovin said IPS also had evidence of electronic surveillance and breaking and entering directed against IPS. Barnett said the institute had been broken into on numerous occasions.

Rogovin also noted that Barnett, Raskin and IPS were named on lists of White House "enemies" that were introduced during the Watergate

hearings. According to testimony by former White House counsel John W. Dean III, the "enemies" were to be "screwed" in any way possible by various agencies of the federal government.

In his affidavit, Rogovin noted that IPS has been audited by the IRS "ever since the Nixon administration took office," and has been told by IRS that it may lose its tax-exempt status.

White House aide Buchanan had alleged that IPS was funded by the Ford Foundation and, Rogovin said, implied it had used foundation money to fund a now-defunct underground newspaper, the Quicksilver Times, in violation of its tax-exempt status.

Rogovin and Barnett both said that IPS never funded the Quicksilver Times and that the only Ford Foundation money IPS received was a \$6,400 grant in 1964 for the specific purpose of conducting seminars on the Alliance for Progress.